

later, after a few shots had been fired, a party of Jelu mountaineers superbly dressed came up into Kochanes, also on a matrimonial errand. Some of these men are quite blond. They came on behalf of a youth of high position in Jelu, and the bargaining was keen, for the girl is of the House of Mar Shimun. Eventually they gave twenty *liras*, a mule, a gun, thirty sheep, and a revolver for her, as well as presents to the negotiators. She wept most bitterly at the prospect of leaving Kochanes.

The money is spent on the *trousseau*, and the bride's parents give a present to the bridegroom.

Shortly after the betrothal, Mar Sergis, Bishop of Jelu, arrived, -with fifty Jelu men, the young bridegroom, and some matrons. The Bishop, who is a grand-looking man, was dressed in a robe, red *shulwars*, and a turban; the other men were in silks and gold embroideries, and carried jewelled *Jchanjars*, revolvers, and long guns with the stocks curiously inlaid with ivory and silver. As

they climbed up through the bushes of the ravine they simulated an attack by skirmishers, firing guns and revolvers. A few Kochanes men fired as if in defence,

but most of the people decided not to show this "sign of joy," because news had come that the Kurds had driven off the sheep of the father of Asiat. So with this feint of attack and capture the brilliant throng reached the top of the ascent, Mar Sergis and others riding mules, musicians playing a drum and flageolets, and five or six

men with drawn swords in their right hands
and leather
shields on their left arms escorting the
bridegroom to
the hospitalities of the Patriarch's house.
The roofs
were crowded with villagers, but the bride
was hidden
in her father's house. The father had
beaten her on
her head with a long wooden spoon, and she
was lying
down!

On that and the two following evenings
there was